

## 2009 FORT KNOX FALL GUN TURKEY HUNTING GUIDELINES

1. The 2009 Fall Gun Turkey Season will be held 14-28 Dec. Hunting hours are from 30 minutes before sunrise until 1700 hrs. Availability of all hunting areas will be contingent upon the training mission. There will be no hunting on Tuesdays, Christmas Eve, or Christmas Day; the Hunt Control Office will be closed.

2. Area Sign-up. Hunters may sign up for areas open for fall gun turkey hunting up to 48 hours in advance. Fifty percent of the hunter spaces for each day will be held for military category hunters until 1300 on the day prior.

3. Hunters registering may sign up themselves and a maximum of three other individuals in the same party. Proof of Fort Knox Fall Turkey Permit must be presented at the time of registration for each member of the party. The required Kentucky state license and post permits must be in possession at all times while in the hunting area.

### 4. Regulations

\* Hunters must write in ink the month and day on the back of the 2009 Fort Knox Fall Turkey Permit **immediately after a bird has been harvested and before moving it from that location**. Hunters should carry a writing pen and a string or other means to attach the permit to a harvested bird. The permit must be attached to the turkey if left unattended.

\* The fall bag limit is 2 turkeys per hunter (fall archery and gun seasons combined, 1 bird per day, and no more than 1 bird may have a beard length of 3 inches or longer).

\* A Hunter Education Card is mandatory for all hunters age 12-60 and under. The one-time Kentucky hunter exemption is acceptable, but the hunter must be accompanied by an adult that meets the hunter education requirements above.

\* Turkeys may be taken by shotguns 10, 12, 16, and 20 gauge (#4 shot or smaller). Repeating shotguns will be plugged to hold a maximum of three shells. **Ten shells maximum in possession per day.**

\* **Hunters must have a valid Fort Knox Fall Turkey Permit and picture ID before bringing a firearm onto the installation.**

\* Hunters shall not hunt from any type of vehicle or boat, or shoot from or across an improved (asphalt or rock based) roadway.

\* All firearms will be **UNLOADED and FULLY ENCASED** while in a vehicle and there will be no hunting within 100 yards of an improved road, building, or structure.

\* Each hunter must clear out of their assigned hunting area by the time indicated on the area assignment sheet. Areas must be cleared by coming to the Hunt Control Office in Bldg. 112 and verbally assure that you are cleared, or by calling (502) 624-7311/2712. Failure to clear assigned hunting area on time each day will result in suspension of hunting privileges at Fort Knox.

\* Turkeys may be taken by the use of hand or mouth operated calls and artificial decoys. Electronic calls are prohibited.

\* Calling or attempting to call wild turkeys using any call to mimic the sounds made by a wild turkey is permitted only during legal turkey hunting hours.

\* All turkeys must be checked in at the Hunt Control Office located in Bldg 112, Eleventh Avenue and Binter Street, on the day the turkey is harvested.

\* No person shall take a turkey when the turkey is roosting (a roost is the place where a turkey spends the night).

\* A person hunting wild turkey shall not use live turkeys as decoys. Baiting wildlife, such as placing grains, fruits, or other natural or manufactured food materials, is prohibited.

\* Any person hunting turkey must have in their possession a valid Commonwealth of Kentucky Hunting License, or a Kentucky Senior Citizen/Disabled License, a Kentucky Fall Turkey Permit, a Fort Knox Fall Turkey Hunting Permit, and a Hunter Education Card (ages 12-60 and under).

- \* All non-residents hunting turkeys in Kentucky must purchase a Kentucky Annual Non-Resident Hunting License and Kentucky Non-Resident Fall Turkey Permit in addition to a Fort Knox Fall Turkey Permit.
- \* **All hunters are restricted to their assigned hunting area.** Hunters found out of their assigned area will be **grounds for permanent suspension**. All vehicles will be driven in the most direct, authorized route to the assigned hunting area.
- \* All rivers will be off limits.
- \* Civilian vehicles will not be authorized on unimproved roads or trails in the hunting areas and there is no parking allowed in bivouac sites or built-up portions of ranges. Do not block gates by parking in front of them. Violators will be cited.
- \* Hunters must have a Fort Knox hunting and fishing map 1:37,500 in their possession while hunting. A compass and/or GPS are highly recommended.
- \* Be courteous of other hunters!! Don't cut-off a person who is working a bird. This is uncourteous and very unsafe.
- \* A junior hunter (under 18 years of age) and their sponsor will be considered as one hunter. A junior hunter may return with sponsor hunter after harvesting a turkey.

### **THE 10 COMMANDMENTS OF SAFE TURKEY HUNTING**

1. Never stalk a turkey. The chances of getting close enough for a shot are slim, but the chances of becoming involved in an accident are much greater. You don't know if there is another hunter making the calls; you may be stalking and shooting a hunter's decoys.
2. Eliminate the colors red, white, and blue from your turkey hunting outfit. Red is the color most hunters count on to differentiate a gobbler's head from the hen's blue-colored head. White can look like the snowball-colored top of a gobbler's head; leave those white t-shirts and socks at home. Not only will these colors put you in danger, they can be seen by turkeys as well.
3. Never move, wave, or make turkey sounds to alert another hunter of your presence, a quick movement may draw fire. Yell in a loud voice and remain hidden.
4. Never attempt to approach closer than 100 yards to a roosting turkey. The wild turkey's eyesight and hearing are much too sharp to let you get any closer.
5. Be particularly careful when using the gobbler call, the sound and motion may attract other hunters.
6. When selecting your calling position, don't try to hide so well that you cannot see what's happening. Remember, eliminating motion is your key to success, not total concealment.
7. Select a calling position that provides a background as wide as your shoulders, and one that will completely protect you from the top of your head down. Small trees won't hide slight movements of your hands or shoulders which might look like a turkey to another hunter who might be stalking your sweet calls. Position yourself so you can see 180 degrees in front of you.
8. Camouflage conceals you, it does not make you invisible. When turkey hunting, think and act defensively. Avoid all unnecessary movement. Remember, you are visible to both turkeys and hunters when you move even slightly. Sitting perfectly still will help you more than all the camo you can wear.
9. **Never shoot at a sound or movement. Be 100 percent certain of your target before you pull the trigger.**
10. When turkey hunting, assume that every sound you hear is made by another hunter. **Once you pull the trigger, you can never call that shot back.**

**HUNTER ORANGE** - Hunter orange garments are not required but highly recommended, especially when changing locations or carrying a harvested bird.